

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

HRL Laboratories

California Manufacturing Technology Consulting

HRL Attains AS9100B Registration

Client Profile:

HRL Laboratories focuses on advanced developments in electronics, information system sciences, materials, sensors and photonics, with work that spans basic research to product delivery. HRL technologies are used in satellites and fighter jets, enable radars, provide communication protocols and support the vehicles and systems of the future. Although owned by General Motors and Boeing, HRL continues to work with many Government agencies, laboratories, universities and academic institutions. HRL's facility in Malibu, California employs 75 people.

Situation:

HRL's Microelectronics Research Lab (MEL), one of four laboratories within HRL, is not only involved in R&D activities, but also delivers product to Boeing. In order to meet customer requirements, HRL's goal was to obtain industry controlled other-party registration to AS9100B, an internationally recognized Aerospace Quality Management System standard, before June 2007. HRL responded to Boeing's requirements by embarking on a path to certify its quality management system to AS9100B for delivery of Boeing flight product. The company contacted California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

CMTC met with HRL management to discuss the company's needs relative to the implementation of a conforming quality management system based on the AS9100B international standard. A gap assessment was conducted by CMTC staff to determine requirements to meet stringent aerospace quality management system specifications. Using the results of the assessment as a guideline, CMTC created a project plan that outlined the following tasks: AS9100 Overview Training, Quality Manual Development, Procedure Development, Implementation and Training Assistance, on-site Internal Auditor Workshops and Management Review. CMTC also provided continuing assistance during implementation to ease the workload on personnel. As a result, HRL was recommended for registration to AS9100B. The company quickly began to see productivity and sales benefits that resulted from their commitment and effort towards maintaining their quality management system. Productivity improvements resulted from using one set of standards that decreased the time required to identify and solve problems. Since working with CMTC to achieve registration, HRL attributes the retention of employees and business to the implementation of the project.

Results:

- * Achieved AS 9100B certification.
- * Retained sales of \$1 million.
- * Retained 88 jobs.

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Testimonial:

"We were able to retain \$1 million in sales, thanks to our work with CMTC."

David Chow, Director, MEL